

SPRING 2014 REFORM BAROMETER - BULGARIA

		Q1: the recommendation is:	Q2: implementation effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 1	Preserve a sound fiscal position by ensuring compliance with the medium-term objective and pursue a growth-friendly fiscal policy as envisaged in the convergence programme. Implement a comprehensive tax strategy to strengthen all aspects of the tax law and collection procedures with a view to increase revenue, notably by improving tax collection, tackling the shadow economy and reducing compliance costs. Establish an independent institution to monitor fiscal policy and provide analysis and advice.	Helpful (but not a priority)	Satisfactory	
CSR 2	Phase out early retirement options, introduce the same statutory retirement age for men and women and implement active labour market policies that enable older workers to stay longer in the labour market. Tighten the eligibility criteria and controls for the allocation of invalidity pensions to effectively limit abuse.	Important	unsatisfactory	
CSR 3	Accelerate the national Youth Employment Initiative, for example through a Youth Guarantee. Further strengthen the capacity of the Employment Agency with a view to providing effective counselling to jobseekers and develop capacity for identifying and matching skill needs. Enhance active labour-market policies, in particular concerning national employment schemes. Undertake a review of the minimum thresholds for social security contributions to ensure that the system does not price the low-skilled out of the labour market. Ensure concrete delivery of the National Strategies on Poverty and Roma integration. Improve the accessibility and effectiveness of social transfers and services, in particular for children and older people.	Extremely important	Mixed	

CSR 4	Adopt the School Education Act and pursue the reform of higher education, in particular through better aligning outcomes to labour-market needs and strengthening cooperation between education, research and business. Improve access to inclusive education for disadvantaged children, in particular Roma. Ensure effective access to healthcare and improve the pricing of healthcare services by linking hospitals' financing to outcomes and developing out-patient care.	Extremely important	Mixed	
CSR 5	Take further steps to improve the business environment, by cutting red tape, implementing an e-government strategy and implementing the legislation on late payments. Improve the quality and independence of the judicial system and fight corruption more effectively. Improve the access to finance for SMEs and start-ups.	Extremely important	Mixed	
CSR 6	Accelerate the absorption of EU funds. Ensure sound implementation of public-procurement legislation by extending ex-ante control by the Public Procurement Agency to prevent irregularities.	Important	Satisfactory	
CSR 7	Strengthen the independence of national regulatory authorities and the administrative capacity in particular in the energy and transport sectors, as well as for waste and water management. Remove market barriers, quotas, territorial restrictions and regulated prices and complete the market design by setting up a transparent wholesale market for electricity and natural gas. Accelerate electricity and gas interconnector projects and enhance the capacity to cope with disruptions. Step up efforts to improve energy efficiency.	Extremely important	Mixed	